OBITUARY

John K. Hackett, Recorder of the city and county of New York, died in his residence, No. 72 rk avenue, yesterday afternoon, at one o'clock. wife and daughter stood by the bedside as he athed his last, and news of the event was soon sent to his friends. He had not speken since he day before and passed away painlessly and mietly. For some time past he had been suffering bronchitis, which turned into dropsy, the latter malady finally caused his . While ailing for months he had been tned to his house only for a couple ceks, but during that time he had suffered in-Dr. Marcy, of Fifth avenue, who has been dance on the late Judge, arrived at the house ed his attention to the widow, who was much orn and fatigued with watching. Dr. Marcy said orter of the HEBALD who called :-- "The late went out fishing about three months ago got wet. He had always suffered a little conchial troubles, but the wetting he received on that occasion brought on bronever since. He had not been able to ad to his official duties for quite a while, being such in need of rest and care. While his mind was igorous and clear his body was troubled with eases, and he gradually faded out. Since e was in Paris with me a year ago last summer he ad been but little on the bench, but that was not se of any mental infirmity, only on account of sickness. He had an affection of the heart ddition to the bronchial and chest annoy. ances. He bore his sufferings manfully and struggled with all his might to the last. I think lackett was the last person he spoke to. I ent to him vesterday and he was then very feeble. He was quite conscious and knew all about what we trying to do for his relief, but he could not then speak. He was always a very sensitive man. ved him his face, flushed and he started sudonly to punish the offender. It was all over in a but even while it lasted it never clouded the of his intellect. His mind was as and sound as a bell. I had many opportunities of seeing it in operation, and his judgment and knowledge were always marvels to me of sound and a knowledge and insight into human ature. He was very quick, almost up to the last, and could anticipate what was coming before half could anticipate what was coming before half explanation or instruction was out. Large as-blages inconvenienced him and made him ill ase. If, before his last illness, he were jostled run against, he was apt to think it had been e on purpose, and then the blood would rush is head and the whole man changed. He had octonal terms of depression, but they quickly sed away. When I saw him in his own house he always delightful. One could not meet a more pitable or charming host. He came to me while is in Faris the summer before last, and we spent od deal of time together. He was there coned by friends on some highly important busis, and the opinions he gave saved their estates, were as sound in law as they were admirable in gment. Every point was discussed in full, and in proper place the climax was led up to with multy, skill and ability. His constitutional infarties undoubtedly often gave rise to much assion, but there was never anything like mental multy about him. One day he was walking with in the Place Vendôme and a man trod on his is from behind. Instantly the flush came upon face and he turned to punish the oftender, but I inded him outstly that fine and imprisonment. Sessions. Recorder Hackett, however, declined to sit on the trial, giving as his reason the fact that a warm parsonal friendship had existed between himself and Mr. Hall for many years. While he was sure that he could act impartially between the people and the defendant ne did not wish to give any ground for a charge of partiallity should the result be (as it was) an acquittal. He accordingly made an order transferring the case to the Court of Common Pleas, where Judge Daly was presiding. He tried "Wes" and "Mart" Allen for robbery in 1872, and received a threatoning letter trom "A Cracksman" pending the result. The Allens, being convicted, were sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. Threatening letters were frequently received by the Recorder, who had made hiuself a terror to the criminal classes of this city, but he never faltered or wavered in his course as a judge, his natural personal courage leading him to regard such efforts with the contempt they deserved. He tried William J. Sharkey for the murder of Robert Dunn and sentenced him to death. Sharkey escaped from the Tombs soon after disguised as a woman, and went to Cuba. He also tried the notorious "Dutch" Heinrichs, one of the boldest and most skilful bank robbers on the continent, who, after a long career of crime, was sent to Sing Sing and died in an insane axylum. In 1874 the Recorder found the busi-

infirmity about him. One day he was walking with no in the Place Vendome and a man trodom his seels from behind. Instantly the flush came upon his face and he turned to punish the offender, but I eminded him quietly that fine and imprisonment ollowed assault in France, and he laughed and said. Thank you, Doc.' It was all over in a moment. It was all over in a moment to the work of the bench, and it advised him to retire for the time heing and take the repose his body lemanded. He took my advice and has not since seen able to return. He had been but little out of he house recently. He frequently got up, though, and moved about the house. He was much swollen, sarticularly about the legs and stomach, but he said to sit in the front room, up stairs, and read and enjoy the sun."

John Keteltas Hackett was descended on his author's side from an ancient and honorable Irish amily, and as such was the rightful heir to the tiles and honors of "Baron Hackett, of Hackettsown, county Carlow and Shelton Abbey, county Vickiow, Ireiand." This family is one of the best in the Emerald Isle, and was founded by one of the great Norman barons who came over with William, and whose name appears heading the longueror's roil of his six and thirty generals and nobles, inscribed A. D. 1065 upon the bellar erected at Battle Abbey, near Hastings, largland. The family records tell us that one of the lessendants of this distinguished warrior accompanied Henry II. in his famous Irish expedition, and by his brave services obtained the grant of vast estates, upon which he founded the branch of the lackett family from which the subject of our sketch was the representative. But John K. Hackett never assumed or aspired to the title of "baron," being ontent to remain a simple American citizen as his was the representative. But John K. Hackett never assumed or aspiced to the title of "baron," being content to remain a simple American citizen as his birthright. His father, James Henry Hackett, the distinguished and celebrated actor, whose Falstaff and Monsieur Mailet remain as cherished traditions of the American stage, was frequently styled "Baron Hackett," and he grew fond of the title as he grew older, though himself of American birth. When the elder Hackett visited Great Britain professionally the second time he visited the town. "Baron Hackett," and he grew fond or the title as he grew oider, though himself of American birth. When the eider Hackett visited Great Britain professionally the second time he visited the nome of his ancestors and was received by the peasantry with all the honors due his rank as baron. This micident formed one of the most pleasing recollections of the oid gentleman, and he was fond in after life of describing the scenes then witnessed. Though a New Yorker, born and bred, "Faistaff" Hackett preferred Jammica, L. I., as a residence. This was due to the fact that it was the home of his maternal ancastors. Among the old Jamaica families the name of Keteltas is a prominent one, and it was the daughter of Rev. Abraham Keteltas who married the father of the famous actor. He had served in the Life Guard of the Prince of Orange and came to this country shortly after the Revolutionary War had ended. This British officer was the grandfather of the late Recorder, and his second name is derived from his grandmother's family. The eider Hackett married Miss Katherine Lee Sugg, an actress of great takent and quite famous in her day. She came of an excellent English family, was highly educated, of sprightly manner, and, with an irresistible fascimation and magnetism of demeanor, became "the very Hebe of actresses," as a contemporaneous critic described her. From this union sprang the subject of our sketch, having in his veins the blood of at least three distinguished families, as often occurs in this country. Mr. Hackett's father was the personal friend of Louis Napoleon during his exile in America, and he also became intimate with President Lincoln and other prominent men of his time.

John Keteltas was born in the village of Jamaica in the year 1822, and, like his father, received most of his education at the academy located in his native town. It does not appear that he ever entered a college, for his family removed to Utica during his boyhood. Here he remained until of age and studied law in the office of Joshua Spencer,

tornia gold fever swept over the country, and as the Pacific coast promised a grand opening for young men of energy and talent he decided to follow the tide of transcontinental migration. On reaching San Francisco he found himself surrounded by a host of New York friends, among them being David Broderick, an old New York volunteer fireman; Senator Casserly and Governor "Sam" Purdy. Mr. Hackett formed a law partnership with Mr. Casserly. Broderick became a State Senator, and as politics ran high during the campaigns frequent and deadly quarrels were the result. In 1859 Broderick became involved in a feud with Chief Justice Terry, and for some bitter words used by him in debate relative to Terry the latter sent him a mortal challenge. Broderick and Terry met September 13, 1859, in San Mateo county, a few miles from San Francisco, and at the first fire Broderick fell and vied in a few moments. During the ton years Recorder Hackett lived in California he never had a personal quarrel with any one. This was due in great part to the genial, whole-souled nature of the man, and, perhaps, partly to the well known fact that he was a dead shot with the pistoi and rifle. About a year after Hackett arrived at San Francisco he was elected to the office of Corporation Counsel, a position he held for two or three terms. Beyond this he does not seem to have shown any great desire for political contests, as he frequently refused the nomination of his party for State Senator. Subsequantly, however, he accepted from the Governor of California the appointment of Major General of State Milita. Even this position proved distasteful, and he resigned his commission after a year of service, being succeeded in command of the State Grees by Wilhiam Teumsels Sierman, the hero of Atlanta and the march to the sea through Georgia, now the present commanding general of the United States army. In June, 1857, Mr. Hackett returned to New York and resumed practice at the local bar, with very fair success. In the fall of 1861 he was an aspirant for

geant-at-Arms of the Senate, and last year he was elected Deputy Clerk of the same body. He was personally acquainted with all the governors of the State from De Witt Clinton to Lucius Robinson. He had often been urged by friends to publish his Albany experiences and reminiscences in book form, but persistently declined to do so. In one of his last letters from Albany he said:—" The a long while to look back upon, but from the old capital fifty years ago was my first letter for publication in a newspaper written, and from that time to this, with slight intermissions, have I been connected with newspaper Journalism. In all that time I do not recollect having written one line which, dying I would wish to biot." He was remarkably hale, active and well preserved for his age, and had it not been for the accident would doubtless have lived many years. Last fall he came out as an independent caudidate from the Erie district, but withdrew after the republican nomination of Benjamin H. Williams. His body was forwarded to Bufalo last night for interment, under the directions of his son, Brigadier General William S. Buil, of the Thirtoenth brigade. in important cases involving large sums of money and some very intricate questions of civil law. In the spring of 1866, when John T. Hoffman resigned the office of Recorder for the county in order to accept the Mayoralty of the city, the Supervisors unanimously selected John K. Hackett to fill the Recordership for the unexpired term. This office is oddly named, for the Recorder is not, as the word would indicate. connected in any way with the recording of deeds or other documents, that duty devolving upon the Register. On the contrary, the Recorder is a purely judicial officer, he being the presiding Judge in the highest court in the city, of purely criminal jurisdiction, and having equal powers in all such cases as the Supreme Court or the Court of Oyer and Terminer. In his discharge of the important functions of his office Recorder Hackett was eminently successful, and he became noted for the clearness of his charges to the grand juries summoned for the court, as well as the judicial scumen he brought to bear upon the cases brought before him. Dealing with criminals of the worst and most dangerous classes, Mr. Hackett was fearless in imposing sentences where severity was necessary to check crime by making striking examples. His first important case at the Court of General Seasions was tried before him in April, 1807, when Gastano Gasteneto was arraigned for arson. Frequent cases of incendiarism had occurred about that time in the city, the cry of "Firebugs" being a common expression. Gasteneto was convicted and sentenced to State Prison for the term of his natural life. Recorder Hackett, in his address to the prisoner, gave a thrilling picture of the dangerous nature of his crime, and alluded to the peril to which life and property were exposed by the firebugs. In December of the same year Recorder Hackett tried Margaret Welch, alias Fanny Wright, for the murder of Police Officer McChesney, she having stabbed him in the neck in Canal street. Fanny was found guilty of murder in the second degree and sent to St

De Witt C. Hitchcock, one of the pioneer artists on American illustrated papers, dropped dead of heart disease in front of his residence, No. 115 East Thirty-fourth street, yesterday. He was born on Arch street, Philadelphia, February 10, 1824, and evincing street, Philadelphia, February 10, 1824, and evincing an early taste for drawing studied under George Croom, then one of the leading artists on wood in this country. Leaving Philadelphia Mr. Hitchcock came to this city and became associated with Mr. T. W. Strong in the assuing of the first paper of its kind—The Illustrated American News—and subseqently his talents were called into requisition by various other similar publications, notably Harper's and Frank Lestic's. In 1856 he accompanied Squier's expedition to Nicarsgue,

KNUD BAADE, PAINTER.

The death is announced by mail of Knud Baade, a
Norwegian painter, long settled in Munich, whose have been appreciated. He was educated at Copenhagen, went to Dresden in 1836 and finally established his studio in Munich. He received a medal of the first class in 1861. At the Universal Exposition of 1878 he was represented in the Norwegian art display by "A Stormy Night on the Norwegian Coast" and "The Island of Hestemand—Mid-

PETER J. DIAMOND.

ter J. Diamond, sixty-four years old, died of heart disease, at his residence, No. 68 West Thirty-seventh street, at seven o'clock on Christmas evening, after a painful filness of two months. Since September, 1874, he had occupied the position of record clerk in the Tombs Prison. In early life he was largely interested in local politics and during the late war was in the Union army. He leaves a wife and two sons.

THE ETERNAL, CITY.

Professor P. W. Bedford last night enterfained full house at Association Hall with stereopticon views of Rome. Over one hundred illustrations of buildings, ruins, churches, works of art and m ern structures were thrown on the canvas, and many of them repeated the originals with such many of them repeated the originals with such fidelity that the audience indulged in generous applause. The Professor avoided all mooted ground, skipping with admirable agility over the vexed spots within the limits of the Eternal City. All the noble church interiors were presented, and then the great frescoes that ornament them were given in detail. Each view was accompanied with an explanation by Professor Bedford, who stood on the stage, pointer in hand, directing the attention of his auditors to the various spots of interest.

WAITING FOR THE BALL

of crime, was sent to Sing Sing and died in an insane asylum. In 1874 the Becorder found the business of his court interfered with by certain politicians, a course he energetically resisted, being supported therein by the voice of the people and the independent press of the city, Among his more important charges to the Grand Jury may be cited that on the frauds in life insurance (December 7, 1876) and his address on street nuisances and obstructions (May 6, 1876) which led to the indictment of the entire Board of Aldermen and the Commissioners of Health. Though the defendants were acquirted the causes that led to the trials were in great part removed, much to the relief of a suffering public. A GOOD PROSPECT FOR SKATERS—ICE FORMING ON THE PONDS AND LAKES OF CENTRAL PARK.

The blizzard blasts of Christmas night and yester day have given Young Manhattan hope that ere long the sign that "the ball" is up will be displayed upon the street cars, stages, fences and in other public places. The boys and girls who delight in the ealth-giving exercise of skating upon the ponds nestif-giving exercise of skating upon the ponds and lakes of Central Park, in expectation of employ-ing their school holidays in this joyous way, yesterday got out their skates, polished up the runners and buckles and oiled the straps, and the cry was general, "Christimas has gone! Jack Frost, is here! Let us go to the Park. There must be lost there."

Yesterday a HenalD reporter visited Mr. Wenman, of the Park Department, who represents Jack Frost, and, in the name and behalf of the young folks of Manhattan Island, asked when he would let the boys and girls loose upon the lake. The gentleman touched an electric bell and soon there entered one of his aides-de-camp, who holds the position of Superintendent of Parks. A shortconsultation occurred between the officials, and then Mr. Wenman answered in substance as follows:—

"No, the ball is not up. Tell the children that there have been only about eight hours of frost. It requires about twenty-four hours' constant freezing to harden the ice. I have not been in recent communication with 'Old Probabilities,' without whose aid I am powerless; but they say he is raiding through the Northwest, and we expect him here in a few hours. If the weather holds cold for twenty more hours the ball will be up."

HART STILL AHEAD.

In the summer of 100 Art. Insolvet's neath began to fail, and after presiding at the June sessions of his court he went to Europe, by the advice of his physicians, for a change of air and scene. He remained abroad only two months, however, and remained abroad only two months, however, and remained very little, if any, stronger. Disregarding the remonstrances of many faithful friends, the Recorder insisted upon taking his seat on the bench in September, and worked with his customary vigor, so earnest was he in the discharge of duty, though these efforts were detrimental to him. This was his last appearance on the bench.

In private life Mr. Hackett was highly esteemed by an extensive circle of acquaintances, and he was, because of his position, naturally a prominent man in social circles. Frank in his iriendships and strong in his convictions, Recorder Hackett was a man possessing a high sense of honor in his dealings with his fellow men. He married a Miss Laura Hall, the nice and adopted daughter of Mr. Contoit, who in olden days was the proprietor of a well known and fashionable public garden on Broadway, near Canal street.

From his boyhood Mr. Hackett was a remarkable. Madison Square Garden yesterday was well at ended. Of the sixty-five pedestrians who started in the race but nineteen appeared on the track yea-terday morning, and out of this number three fell off during the day. One of these latter was Brodie, the newsboy, who retired on a score of 280 miles and six laps. The sixteen who still pursued the phantom of success last even-ing looked wholly unlike men whose physical

From his boyhood Mr. Hackett was a remarkable

GEORGE W. BULL, JOURNALIST.

George W. Bull, the veteran Albany correspondent

"Taurus" of the Buffalo Commercial, died at the Kon-more Hotel, Albany, at four o'clock yesterday morn-

ing. He met with a serious accident by falling from

a train when about to leave New York city on Mon

day night, one of his legs being crushed at the ankle.

He did not realize the extent of his injury, and con

tinued on the train to Albany, where he was carried

to the hotel. Fever set in, and while delirious on

Tuesday evening he leaped from his bed, the wound burst and his blood was poisoned

by a discharge, causing paralysis of the throat

by a discharge, causing paralysis of the throat and brain. from which he died. He was born at Hartford, Conn., July 24, 1809. He learned the trade of a printer and worked in New Haven for a time. He went to Buffalo in 1834. He was always active in politics, and has served as correspondent in Albany of various papers since 1829. He spent forty-five winters in Albany, attended thirty-one whole sessions of the Legislature and twenty-four consecutive whole sessions. For many years past he had been the regular correspondent of the Buffalo Commercial, always using the signature of "Taurus." With the exception of Taurus weed, he knew more of the public men of the State than any other newspaper writer. He was a good authority on legislative matters, possessed a remarkably retentive memory and had a vast fund of information concerning State politics. In 1850-51 he was Ser-

fashionable public garden on Broadway, near Canal street.

From his boyhood Mr. Hackett was a remarkable marksman with the pistol, and in after years he became quite as familiar with the rifle. He could cut out the spots on a playing card with either weapon at ten or thirty paces, and so confident was he and his friends of his aim that he frequently shot a nickle penny out of the extended fingers of a companion or an apple off his head. He has been known to knock the ashes off a half-consumed cigar while held in the smoker's mouth. Passionately fond of field sports, he delighted in tramping over the salt meadows and through the woods of Long Island in search of snipe and quaff, being also an enthusiastic and successful wild take place at Trinity Chapel, at ten o'clock on Tuesday morning next. Hev. Dr. Dix will officiate. A special car will take the body from the Forty-second Street Depot to Woodlawn Cometery, where it wi'll be interred.

HOW THE VACANCY WILL BE FILLED.

When the news of the Recorder's death reached the City Hall the politicians began to inquire as to the method of appointing his successor. A clause of the Revised Statutes bearing upon this point was bunned up, which reads as follows:—'th case a vacancy shall occur in either of said offices (the Recordership is included in this list by death, resignation or otherwise, the Board of Supervisors of said city and county are authorized to fill such vacancy until the general election next ensuing the happening of such vacancy, when an election shall be had to fill the unexpired term of the officer whose term had so become vacant.' Unquer this law a majority vote of twelve members of the Board of Aldermen, acting as Supervisors, can elect a successor to the late Recorder fackett. Several candidates have aiready been mentioned around the City Hall for the position. Among them are Police Justice Morgan, Mr. Elihu Root and Assistant District Attorney Rollins on the republican side, Mr. Frederick Smyth, by Tammany Hall, and Mr. John Hardy, Police Justice K Mules.

RIFLE SHOOTING.

The annual outdoor meeting of the Amboy Rifle Club took place at Amboy, N. J., yesterday. The prize was a Remington rifle, the conditions being ten shots at 100 yards, standing position, any rifle, ten shots at 100 yards, standing position, any rifle, previous winners handleapped two points. The match was shot on the shore target. The wind was moderate and fair, but the sun shining on the crisp frozen snow interfered somewhat with the marksmen. The winner of the rifle was P. T. Haverly, with a score of 43 out of a possible 50. The other best scores were:—Jackson Haines, 41; D. C. Waldron, 41; W. Johns, 40; Chris Hoimes, 39, and H. Walling, 39.

PIGEON SHOOTING.

The members of the Long Island Gun Club met at their grounds, at Dexter's, on the Jamaica road, Long Island, yesterday afternoon, and shot for a silver medal, at seven birds each, handicap rise, 80 yards boundary, 1% ounces of shot, H and T traps; ties decided at three birds each; club rules. Mr. Ritridge, at 25 yards, won after killing 12; Mr. Purdy (25), 10; Mr. Wynn (25), 6; Mr. Broadway (25), 6; Mr. Gildersleeve (29), 5; Mr. Taibot (25), 3; Mr. Hughes (27), 3; Mr. Murphy (23), 3; Mr. Turner (21), 3; Mr. Hance (25), 3. Messrs. Lancako (25), Midway (25), Madison (29) and Robinson (23) all missed three birds and retired.

3; Mr. Hance (25), 3. Messrs. Lancake (25), Midway (25), Madson (29) and Robinson (23) all missed three birds and retired.

The contest of the New Jersey Gun Club for the Columbia trophy, postponed from Thursday on account of the weather, took place yesterday at West End, N. J. The conditions were 10 birds each, handicap rise, 30 yards boundary, five ground traps; English rules; entrance \$2; the trophy and entrance fee, with the exception of five per cent, to go to the person making the highest score. The following was the result:—Mr. Sammis (28 yards), 9; Mr. (Ooth (39), 9; Mr. Fulton (29), 9; Mr. Wheeler (29), 8; Mr. Chisholm (26), 8; Mr. Prince (28), 7; Mr. Guthrie (21), 7. The tie was shot off, 'bird about,' the trophy going to Mr. Sammis on a total of 17 birds killed.

Charles Height and L. Butler shot (50 birds each) at

killed.
Charles Height and L. Butler shot (50 birds each) at
Waverly, N. J., yesterday afternoon. The conditions
were 25 yards rise, 80 yards boundary and single
barrels. Mr. Height won by a score of 41 to his opponent's 39.

THE BENNETT MEDAL.

At Firemen's Hall to-day the Bennett Medal will be officially presented to Captain Magher, of Hook and Ludder Company No. 3, for the heroic rescue of Sarah Freeman from No. 23 East Fourteenth street.

A ROW IN THE WIGWAM. THE LEADER OF TAMMANY AND CORONER FLAN-

AGAN AT LOGGERHEADS - SOME PLAIN TALK IN THE MUTUAL ADMIRATION CIRCLE OF POLITICIANS.

brief session last night. The object of the meeting was to issue a call for holding primaries in the various Assembly districts for the election of mem-bers of the General Committee for 1880. When Major Quincy, the secretary, had read the minutes of the previous meeting, a report was received from the Committee on Organization, in which it was recommended that primaries be ordered in all the districts except the Thirteenth and a few other districts. The Thirteenth district is regarded as being Coroner Richard Flansgan's stronghold, and when the latter saw that it was intended not to have a primary held in his disposed to leave the district out of the call. He thought the Thirteenth had as much right to hold a primary as any other district of the city, and he therefore moved that the report of the Committee on Organization be so amended as to include that part of the city. This brought ox-Aldorman James Basker to his feet. Mr. Barker also hails from the Thirteenth, and in his remarks he charged that Mr. Flanagan had not proved a very strong friend of the Tammany organization. He (Coroner Flanagan) had heid lucrative positions for

Thirteenth, and in his remarks he charged that Mr. Flanagan had not proved a very strong friend of the Tammany organization. He (Coroner Flanagan) had held lucrative positions for over twenty years, and yet after all he had received from the party he had "gone back" on some of its nominees. The time had come when a reorganization of the party was most dearable, and a good place to begin in would be the Thirteenth district. At this point the spokesman of Tammany smiled, and afterward arcse and walked in front of the Chairman's desk.

"The gentleman from the Eightsenth," said Mr. Clinton, and the spokesman began:—"I hope," said the spokesman, "that the report of the Committee on Organization will be adopted as it has been read here. I think it would be wise and just and proper to defer holding a primary election in the Thirteenth district. It is about time that this organization embraced none within its folds except those in whom confidence could be placed. The time has come, I repeat" (looking at Mr. Flanagan) "when men who have made a living out of the party should be taught that they owe something in return. What the party wants is men that can be trusted, men that will command confidence and men that will not betray their party; and let me say right here" (still looking at Mr. Flanagan) "when man looking at Mr. Flanagan sid that he should not be held responsible for the small number of votes Tammany received in the Thirteenth district. What caused this was the feeling that prevailed among the people against the leader of Tammany Hall. They wouldn't, and the result showed they didn't. Mr. Flanagan in saying this referered to the leader of Tammany by his

SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF A SPREE

A DRUNKEN MAN, AFTER A NARBOW ESCAPE FROM DROWNING, LOCKED UP FOR A NIGHT IN HIS WET CLOTHTS-ARE THE POLICE TO

The steamship California arrived here on last Sunday, and as the storms she had weathered had some what damaged her she was put on the sectional dock, foot of Pike street, East River, and a force of workmen was employed to repair her. Among them was John Brown, a boiler maker, given to drink, without a regular home and accustomed to sleep in cheap lodging houses. When sober he was considered a good workman. He went to work on Monday and continued at it until Thursday evening. when, with some friends, he drank to excess in celebration of the day. At a late hour he started for the dock and in staggering about there he lost his footing and fell into the river. His cries for lest his footing and fell into the river. His cries for help brought some fellow workmen to his rescue and he was pulled out of the icy water shivering as ir with ague. His involuntary bath did not restore him to sobriety and he was sent home by his rescuers. Some hours later Policeman McSweeney found him leaning against an awning post at the corner of Monroe and Catherine streets, and took him to the Seventh precinct station house on a charge of intoxication. The sergeant, when Brown was brought in, ordered him to be taken at once to a cell and locked up. The prisoner was forthwith, in his wet and frozen clothes, thrust into one and remained there some hours. He was then taken to Essex Market Court, which he entered a pitiable looking object.

A SUBJECT FOR THE HOSHTAL.

Policeman McSweeney told Justice Duffy that he had asked the prisoner his name and address, but could get no answer from him. Brown's clothes

the night before, and related his falling into the river, rescue, subsequent arrest and incarceration. He added that in the morning when he came out of his cell another policeman caught him by the hair and threw him four feet. Justice Duffy committed him for five days, saying that he might in that time "be a fit subject for a hospital." The prisoner was then taken with a violent chill. He was removed at once to the court prison, where his wet clothes were taken off him and he was wrapped up in blankets. The reporter found him scated on the register, the full heat turned on, yet he shook as if he had the palsy. His face was purple in color. He said the police had treated him very inhumanly. At twelve o'clock he was discharged by order of Justice Duffy, who, it is said, changed his decision upon a statement from the warden that the man was a fitter subject for a hospital than the prison. A physician named Lee, who was called in to see Brown, said he was liable to have a severe attack of pneumonis. It was said the warden gave Brown coffee and brandy, but the latter denied that he received either and added he had not even been given breacfast. It was then half-past eleven in the day.

The police claim that Brown's clothing was not noticed to be wet, and that the prisoner did not meation about falling into the river. They explain the story about pulling his hair in this way:—When his name was called out the doorkeeper said, "He must be an Irishman." Brown answered, "No, I am an Englishman." The doorkeeper then shook hands with him; nothing more. They add that it is their custom to strip a man when he is wet through and wrap him in blankets.

IN DESPERATE STRAITS.

IN DESPERATE STRAITS.

SAD TALE OF SICKNESS, POVERTY AND DEVO-TION-AN HONEST MAN COMPELLED TO STEAL TO DESCRIP HIS CONSUMPTIVE WIFE AND HIS CHILD PROM STARVATION.

CHILD PROM STARVATION.

James Murphy, an employé in the plumbing establishment of James Flemming, at No. 26 West Twenty-seventh street, saw a man outside the window on Thursday night, who, after lurking about for a moment, stepped up, stove in the glass and seized eight faucets and three water filters. He turned to run away, but Murphy gave the alarm and a policeman arrested him. At the sta-tion house he said his name was James Smith, but an investigation, which Justice Flammer ordered when he was brought to the Jefferson Market Police Court, showed yesterday that his name is William

when he was brought to the Jefferson Market Police Court, showed yesterday that his name is William Howard, and that he recides at No. 172 Mulberry street. When led before the magistrate he burst into tears and cried out most bitterly. "Yes, I did break into the shop. I admit it. My wife and child were starving and I was forced to do it."

His despairing words attracted the Court's attention, and in answer to the Justice's inquiries he furnished the following narrativo:—

"I am an American by birth, by trade a carbuilder. I was engaged in Hendricks' shops till about a year ago, when sickness compelled me to leave them. I took cold and my throat became so swellen I could not swallow anything. Large lumps came out upon my chest and through rheumatism I almost lost the use of my right arm. Dr. Pursell, the Sanitary Inspector, treated my ailments, and at last my wife induced me to go to the Metropolitan Hospital in Third avenue. I was oured after three months, but in that time whatever little money I had saved was spont. My wife, poor woman, worked hard at making straw hats. She carned about \$3 a week. but as I had to buy expensive medicines we were soon without means. Then I had to pawn my clothes, and when they were gone I went about trying to get work, but seldom succoeded, sithough I was willing to get work, but seldom succoeded, sithough I was willing to do anything.

"My poor wife worked herself to death. She caught cold, began to cough, and soon I saw that she was the victim of consumption. For weeks she was unable to do anything. A doctor from Broome street attended her, and then I had a practitioner cassay her cure by the use of electricity. It was of no avail, though, and I have to look on calmiy she see her dying by inches. My little boy, who is eight years old, makes seven or eight cents a day caning chairs, and that is very little assistance. For many a day we have not had are our chief diet. On Christmas morning I became desperate. For a week I had not tasted meat. My wife was weak with hunger, my boy

and got ready to go out. Perhaps my actions indicated my despair, for my wife came to me and begged me not to do anything rash. I went out and walked up Sixth avenue toward my mother's house. I would rather not mantion her name. She is very poor, and my sixter works to support her. When I reached Twenty-aevouth street I stepped under an awning to dry myself. There the thought of stealing entered my mind. I was fairly reckless, and did not look to see even what kind of a store it was. I remembered only my wife starving at home, and smashing the pane I picked up whatever came handlest. When I want away I did not know what to do with what I had stolen."

The presence's narreative, related with such feeling, impressed the magnitude agreat deal, and is sent Officer McSully, of the court squad, to investigate the truth of it. He tound Howard's residence in the rear of No. 172 Mulberry street. It was in the fourth story of an old tumbledown house enterer from the outside by a crazy stairway. The prisoner wife was there—a woman worn and wasted—whe stated that she had instinctively felt that her husban was desperate from poverty, and had tried to prevent his leaving home. His atory about their want was more than corroborated by the appearance of the place and its immates, and when Officer McSull reported to Justice Flammer what he had seen the later enclosed an account of it to the District Attorney with the papers in the case, and committed the prisoner for trial in default of \$1,000 hall.

THE WEST INDIES.

SUCCESS OF THE REVOLUTION IN ST. DO MINGO-THE GOVERNMENT STILL AT PORTO PLATA-THE SEAT OF LUPERON'S STRENGTH.

ST. THOMAS, Dec. 20, 1879. The revolution at St. Domingo has entirely suc ided, and a provisional government has been formed, with General Luperon at the head. The government is still at Porto Plata, and it is said that Luperon, if elected, which is most likely, will es-

Luperon, if elected, which is most likely, will establish the seat of government at Porto Plata, and have that the capital of the country instead of the city of St. Domingo. Luperon's strength lies in the Cibao. In all cases if the Cibao rises there is no possibility of helding the city of St. Domingo.

MRETING OF THE HAVIAN CHAMERIS.

The Republic of Hayti is quiet throughout. The Chambers are about assembling, and their first duty is a thorough revision of the constitution. One clause makes the President's term eight years. The Salomon party is said to have a strong hold on the North, but he has enemies in the South. Salomon proposes to recognize what is called the French debt in its integrity—say 500,000f.—paying all arrears—say for four years, with 30f, interest, and in future guarantees 40f. interest, only 30f. or which will be paid at first, the remainder to be an obligation from the government. It will be remembered that the Chambers cut down this debt to 300,000f. and pay 24f. interest, but did not get a chance to lay it before the Chambers. Boisrond Canal is still at St.

Thomas.

PRINCE VALDEMAR AT ST. THOMAS.

The Danish corvette Dagmar, with Prince Valdemar, has been lying here for a week. She proceeds to St. Croix about the 23d, to remain there until after the 1st of January. No trouble is expected among the negroes, as all are quietly at work, but it is thought better to have the man-of-war ou hand. A ball has been given on board the Dagmar to the inhabitants of St. Thomas. Business here is still very quiet.

"CUBA LIBRE."

MASS MEETING OF CUBANS AT CLARENDON HALL-ADDRESS BY GENERAL GARCIA-

in Clarendon Hall, Thirteenth street, near Third avenue, last evening. The proceedings were conducted entirely in Spanish, and were characterized by enthusiasm throughout. The main object of the neeting was to arouse the spirit of New York Cubans in behalf of "Cuba Libre," and to enlist their aid for their fighting and suffering brothers in

their sid for their fighting and suffering brothers in the "Ever Faithful Isle." The speakers of the evening were General Calinto Garcia-Yniguez, commandant of the revolutionary forces; Colonel Pro Rosado, Manuel Boraza and Juan Arnao. Among the prominent revolutionists present were General Roloff, commanding one of the revolutionary departments; Leandro Rodriguez, treasurer of the Ravolutionary Committee; Salvador Cisneros, the Marquis of Santa Lucia, ex-President of the Cuban Republic, and Bellido de Luna.

The principal speaker of the evening was General Garcia-Yniguez. He is a man of soldierly appearance, and made his remarks with characteristic vigor. He impressed upon his hearers the vast importance of the work now going on in Cuba and expisined that with assistance from its friends in America and elsewhers it must needs be successful. He pointed out the great importance of immediate assistance for those who were so nobly battling for their country's independence. His remarks were from time to time interrupted with applause. The other speakers followed in a similar strain and were applauded as vociferously. All of them spoke of the independence of Cuba as a thing to be thought of in the near ruture. All that was needed, he said, was ready hands and willing hearts.

TEHUANTEPEC RAILWAY.

Mr. Van Brocklin, the late superintendent of the sulting engineer; Mr. Scott and several other gentlemen, leave to-day on the steamer City of Alexandria to superintend the construction of the interoceanic railroad from the Atlantic to the Pacific at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. On reaching Vera Cruz the party propose to take one of the coast steamers to Minititlan, a port on the Coatzaccalco River, twenty-four miles from its mouth. Mr. McAlpine and Mr. Van Brocklin propose to make a complete reconsistance of the antira line of road between the termini, going over the ground on horse samping out.

CARRIAGE TOUTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD Pray, do not suppose that I meant to recommend the kicking of these gentry. I simply expressed wonder that they escaped kicking by the more iras-cible of their victims. For myself I would strongly cible of their victims. For myself I would strongly urge folk not to kick them under any circumstances, though, perhaps, in the spirit of the country magistrate who when his people had collared a suffan that had insulted him, adjured them set to best him, not to duck him and above all things set to nail his cars to the pump, all which lines of treatment they proceeded to apply—it was of course not his fault that they are misunderstood him.

By the way, as to the ruffianly character of these men, I fancy the mild and quiet traveller (in which character I usually appear) has more to fear from them than one who tells them in round terms what he thinks of them, as I invariably do when fellows of this sort show that civility is thrown away upon them. (Otherwise I make it a rule to talk to a hackman no differently than I would talk to an emperor). I was amused by the answer one of the crowd made me:—"Take my carriage, air; I'm not a swindler," manifestly implying that he quite agreed with me as to the rest. There was such an air of calm conviction in the remark that I took him t his word, with a satisfactory result.

It is natural enough that even a traveller who is more than content with arrangements here (on the whole) should seem oftener to find fault than to com-mend, for he has no occasion to publish commendation, whereas good service may be done by noting matters which seem to leave room for improvement. I see Miss K. Field has noted several such points since her return—as the paving of New York streets, the omnipresent ash barrels, and the customary insults (not extended to visitors, I believe) as to dutiable articles.

Now let me note another matter—to wit, the

Now let me note abound matter of the too frequent instances of petty frauds practised by hackmen and others on persons supposed to be strangers, and, therefore, not to know the proper prices. For instance, having to go to Elmira on Mon-day, and my ticket being a 'return' to Binghamton, I asked the conductor if there would be time for me to get a ticket at Binghamton. He said there would, but he would be glad to get it for me. I thanked him, proposing to add a quarter for his courtesy, but he saved me the trouble by taking dorty-five cents for himself, returning me twenty cents change out of a two dollar bill, probably conceiving that I did not know the true fare to be \$1 35. There appears, by the way, to be one advantage even in our English railway arrangements, inconvenient though they usually are. I dare say that if first, second and third class passengers all travelled together in England as here, the rule I recognize here would preva there-viz, that not one article in twenty lost or (that is, the original owner). As a matter of fact, a first class passenger in England may reckon on the return of at least four such articles out of five. As a particularly careless traveller, I have put this matter to a very sufficient test.

RICHARD A. PROCTOR. NEW YORK, Dec. 25, 1879.

THE HOSPITAL FUND.

The Hospital Fund received yesterday from the Produce Exchange \$196 and from the Stock Exchange \$355. The amount contributed by the Produce Exchange to date is \$456 and by the Stock Exchange

THE SCIENTIFIC WONDER.

NEW METHOD OF DIVIDING THE ELECTRIC CURRENT FOR ILLUMINATING PURPOSES DIS-COVERED BY A MISSISSIPPI ELECTRICIAN.

Mr. Flannery, of Mississippi, who is connec with the Western Union Telegraph Company, has invented a new method of dividing an electric current for illuminating purposes, or any other use where several currents of electricity generated from ne source may be needed. As Mr. Europe have given much time and thought to the problem of dividing currents of electricity, Mr. Planuery's invention will command attention recognized in the Patent Office at Washington. His attorneys in this city have a copy of the specifictions, which in substance are as follows:-

The chief aim of the invention is to provide a improved method of regulating and dividing electrio currents, to maintain from one to a large num ber of lumps, and the main feature of the invention consists in an electric condensor in the the generator and the lamps. This condenser is divided into sections, so that by turnings a switch in the circuit these sections may thrown into or out of the circuit, increasing decreasing the capacity of the condenser, and, accordingly, increasing or decreasing the generative action of the machine. The force of the lamp is rendered independent of any of the other lamps in the circuit. The invention also consists in

various sub-currents is thus regulated, and one lamp is rendered independent of any of the other lamps in the circuit. The invention also consists in the relative arrangement and connection of the several parts of the apparatus and an a special form of lamp. The inventor claims, among other things, the described mode of regulating the electric current for illumination:—An electric lighting apparatus, consisting of a generator of electricity, one or many lamps, and a condenser of electricity, arranged in circuit with each other, and one or more switches to regulate the currents of electricity.

The drawings represent a generator—preferably amagneto-machine of the Siemens or other kind—driven by a suitable motor in the usual manner and arranged to give an alternating current. One terminal of the generator is connected with a large wire or conductor of low resistance, which may be arranged under or over ground along the course where the light is to be distributed and properly insulated on its course. The other terminal of the generator is preferably connected to a ground plate. From the conductor lateral branches may be extended to connect with the lamp and may be of any number, according to the power of the apparatus. One side or terminal of the lamp is connected to the branches or sub-branches of the main conductor. One side of the electrical condenser is connected with the opposite terminals of the lamp, while the other side of the condenser connects to a ground plate. The condenser is constructed in any of the approved manners, preferably by plates of brass alternating from opposite sides of the condenser and separated by layers of mica; but other equivalent materials may be adopted, as electricins will readily understand. The size or "capacity" of the condenser is proportioned according to the power of the appravatus and the number of lights to be maintained, which will, of course, vary in different cases. Hence, by this system, each lamp connects to a distinct portion of the condenser plates, from which sepa

may be extinguished either deliberately or accidentally without affecting the others. An able form of lamp may be used with this appeinter incandescent or carbon lamps, and of ter class the "point to point," or "candle is may be used. Where but one light is need lamp may be placed in any part of the circutween the generator and the condenser, between the generator. For general purposes, ho where two or more lights are used the post the several parts as before described is prefinated of employing a magneto-electric or dy leactro machine, as the generator, a voltaic may be substituted with a pole changer for ping an alternating current.

EDISON'S ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The preparations for the public exhibition Edison's electric light are rapidly progressing, and within a week or ten days it is quite probable everything will be in readiness for all who desire to see the light. Yesterday two street lamps were placed in front of the labora-tory and connected with the generators, and several more chandeliers were put into the houses near by. The chandeliers are of the ordinary two burner pattern, the only difference being that in place of the gas jets are little sockets into which the electric lamp fits. The wires leading from the generating machine are run through the chandeliers and the laboratory continue burning day and night, and although the place is not yet open to the general public hundreds of persons have come from and far to see the wonderful horseshoe. Nota few of the number who have thus early visited Menlo Park were scepties when they arrived, but not when they left. They see the light burning before, them with a mild, beautiful glow; they see the wires which carry the electricity, they see the machine that; generates the same, they can readily ascertain the horse power capacity of the engine, and they can easily calculate the cost of the whole. With these demonstrations before them they read with less interest the bitter attacks made on the great inventor for his terrible crime of giving the world a better, more beautiful and cheaper light than it has ever before had.

With a desire to ascertain Mr. Edison's views on some of the attacks being made upon him by disappointed electricians and others a Hemallo reporter yesterday called upon the inventor.

"I have nothing to say in reply," he answered after the reporter had called his attention to an article proving that he had never invented anything, and that his 200 patents were all issued wrongrully, and that his 200 patents were all issued wrongrully, and that if he did invent the long-looked for electric light it was not good for snything, and if it was good for anything it was not new. "They may abuse me, but they cannot get around the electric light. There it is," he said, pessing to half-a-dozen beautiful globes of light that mutely answered all the villification. "In a little more than a week now," continued the inventor, "we hope to have all the wires run and sverything ready for the public. Then all can see it who desire."

"But cortain scientific men say that your light in not a success, Mr. Edison?"

"You may tell all the scientific men in the country to come and see the light," was the inventor's reply. "They shall have every facility for examining it. Nothing will be fixed in. Surely until they see it and test it they ought not to decry it."

The inventor declined to talk further about the light. "It is only a little while," said he, "before the laboratory and far to see the wonderful horseshoe. Not a few of the number who have thus early visited Menlo

HIS COMMISSION RESTORED.

Governor Robinson has reversed the decision of the court martial which dishonorably dismissed Captain Nosh L. Cocheu from the command of Company I, Thirteenth regiment. The grounds of the decision are that the Court was illegally constituted and the sentence not in accord with the evidence. and the sentence not in accord with the evidence. On these secounts the findings are declared null and void. The Captain was one of four old officers in the regiment that Colonel Austen is said to have publicly declared he was going to get rid of when he left the colonelcy of the Forty-seventh regiment to accept the same position in the Thirteenth regiment. Three of the officers said to have been spoken of resigned; but Cocheu would not go, and preferred charges against the Colonel to the late General Dakin. Counter charges were then made by the Colonel against the Captain, on which a court martial dismissed him. Captain Cocheu then appealed, and also took the matter before the civil courts. In the latter case Judge Larned decided that the Governor of the State was not liable to answer a writ of certiorari from a State Court. This decision called the Governor's attention to the matter, and on a second appeal from Captain Cocheu the decision reinstating him has been issued—a most agreeable Christmas gift to that officer.